

58. (New) The transgenic mice of claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid molecule of claim 12 has at least 70% sequence identity to SEQ ID NOS: 2, 3 or 8.

59. (New) The transgenic mice of claim 38, wherein the nucleic acid molecule of claim 12 has at least 70% sequence identity to SEQ ID NOS: 2, 3 or 8.

60. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of prostate cancer, liver cancer, head and neck cancers, and colon cancer.

61. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of prostate cancer, liver cancer, head and neck cancers, and colon cancer.

62. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of prostate cancer, liver cancer, head and neck cancers, and colon cancer.

63. (New) The purified 15 kDa selenoprotein of claim 18, wherein the 15 kDa selenoprotein has at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NOS: 1, 4, or 9.

64. (New) The purified 15 kDa selenoprotein of claim 18, wherein the 15 kDa selenoprotein comprises the sequence shown in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 4, or 9.

65. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is the nucleic acid sequence of claim 12. --

Remarks

Claims 1-41 were pending in the present application. Claims 27, 28 and 35 were cancelled. Claims 1-6, 12-13, 17-19, 21, 24-26, 29-30, 34, 36, and 38-40 were amended. Claims 42-65 have been added in this preliminary amendment. Therefore, claims 1-26, 29-34 and 36-65 are now pending.

Claims 1-5, 13, 17, 19, and 33-34 have been amended to remove unnecessary punctuation.

Claim 21 was amended to correct the antecedent basis.

Claims 6, 12-13, 37 and 38 have been amended to more clearly express the claimed subject matter.

Claim 18 has been amended to specify that the 15 kDa selenoprotein has at least 70% sequence identity to SEQ ID NOS: 1, 4, or 9. Support for this claim can be found in the specification on page 6, lines 5-7 and lines 28-37 of the specification.

Claims 19, 24-26, 29 have been amended to specify that the detected 15 kDa selenoprotein is the 15 kDa selenoprotein of claim 18. Support for this claim can be found in the specification on page 5 line 34-page 6 line 9 of the specification.

Claims 37-38 have been amended to specify that the nucleic acid sequences is the nucleic acid sequence of claim 12. Support for this claim can be found in the specification on page 5 line 34-page 6 line 9 of the specification.

Claim 25 has also been amended to specify that the level of the 15 kDa selenoprotein of claim 18 be reduced by at least 3-fold. Support for this claim can be found in the specification on page 18, lines 30-31 of the specification.

Claim 26 has also been amended to provide a Markush group for the different methods that can be used to detect the presence of the 15 kDa selenoprotein of claim 18. Support for this claim can be found in the specification on page 18, lines 19-20 and in Examples 5 and 6 of the specification.

In claim 29 the term "normal" was amended to "control;" support for which can be found on page 36, line 20 of the specification.

Claim 30 has been amended to specify that the method is for determining a individual's susceptibility to developing cancer. Support for this amendment can be found on page 3, lines 5-12.

Claim 36 has been amended to correct typographical errors in the claim number referred to within the claim and to reflect the cancellation of claim 35.

Claim 39 has been amended to specify that the 15 kDa selenoprotein gene has at least 70% sequence identity to SEQ ID NOS 2, 3, or 8. This amendment is supported at page 7, lines 7-13 of the specification.

Claim 40 has been amended to specify that the 15 kDa selenoprotein gene has at least 70% sequence identity to SEQ ID NOS 2, 3, or 8, and the 15 kDa selenoprotein has at least 70%

sequence identity to SEQ ID NOS 1, 4, or 9. Support for these amendments are supported at page 7, lines 7-13, and on page 6, lines 5-7 and lines 28-37, of the specification, respectfully.

Claims 42-67 have been added.

Claims 42 and 43 depend from claim 13, and specify that the nucleic acid sequence has at least 70%, or 95% identity, respectively, to SEQ ID NOS 2, 3 or 8. These amendments are supported at page 7, lines 8-13 of the specification.

Claims 44-45 depend from claim 21, and specifies that the sequence has at least 70%, or 100% identity, respectively, to SEQ ID NOS 2, 3, or 8. These amendments are supported at page 7, lines 7-13 of the specification.

Claims 46-50 are directed to methods for determining if an individual is predisposed to developing cancer by determining if there is a polymorphism in the individual's 15 kDa selenoprotein gene. These amendments are supported at page 21, lines 6-36.

Claims 51-53 are directed to methods for determining if an individual is predisposed to developing cancer by determining if there is abnormally low expression of the 15 kDa selenoprotein, such as reduced by at least 3-fold, or reduced by at least 50%. These amendments are supported at page 18, lines 30-31 and page 36 lines 18-21.

Claim 54 is directed to a method of dietary regulation in individuals whose level of 15 kDa selenoprotein is reduced by at least 50%. This amendment is supported at page 36, lines 18-21, of the specification.

Claim 55 depends from claim 25 and specifies that the 15 kDa selenoprotein sequence has at least 95% o to SEQ ID NOS 1, 4, or 9, which is supported at page 6, lines 5-7 and lines 28-37, of the specification.

Claims 56 and 57 depend from claims 30 and 36, respectively, and specify that the 15 kDa selenoprotein gene sequence has at least 70% to SEQ ID NOS 2, 3, or 8. These amendments are supported at page 7, lines 7-13 of the specification.

Claims 58 and 59 depend from claims 37 and 38, respectively. These claims specify that the nucleic acid molecule has at least 70% identity to SEQ ID NOS 2, 3, or 8. These amendments are supported at page 7, lines 7-13 of the specification.

Claims 60-62 depend from claim 29, 30 and 39, respectively, which specify the type of cancer. Support for these amendments are found on page 18, line 14 through page 22 line 1.

Claims 63-64 depend from claim 18, and specify that the 15 kDa selenoprotein has at least 95% or 100% identity, respectively, to SEQ ID NOS 1, 4, or 9. These amendments are supported at page 6, lines 5-7 and lines 28-37, of the specification.

Claim 65 depends from claim 49, and specifies that the nucleic acid sequence is the nucleic acid sequence of claim 12

If there are any questions, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned patent attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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